

## REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. With this Response, Applicants amend claim 1. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 8, line 33 through page 9, line 9 of Applicants' specification. No new matter is introduced.

### OBJECTED DRAWING

The drawing is objected to under MPEP § 608.02(g) as being incomplete for failing to designate FIG. 1 as "Prior Art", and is further objected to for failing to provide labeling with descriptive legends in FIG. 2. Applicants attach red-line changes to these figures to address these objections, and will proceed to submit formal revisions to the drawing upon approval of the proposed red-line changes and allowance of the present application. No new matter is introduced. With approval of these changes, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawing.

### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1, 2 – 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,016,317 to Sakurai et al. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,209 to Wicklund. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,535,197 to Cotton.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants disclose a common buffer memory control apparatus for storing ATM message data items, comprising a first management means for tracking free and used blocks in the common buffer memory, block selecting means for selecting a free block based on information provided by the first management means, cell writing control means for controlling the writing of a single message data item so that the cells are written in the

selected block, and single message extracting means for extracting the respective cells written in the block by the cell writing control means as a single data message item when a cell at the tail of the single message data item is received.

Sakurai discloses an ATM cell switching system for multiplexing and outputting cell trains. As depicted in FIG. 2 of Sakurai, the system of Sakurai is similar to the system disclosed by Applicants in their FIG. 1 depiction of the prior art (AAPA). Consistent with Applicants' description in association with AAPA (see, e.g., Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 21 through page 3, line 34), the system of Sakurai causes cells associated with a single message to be stored in a queue chain in a common buffer nearby such that reading of a single message from the common buffer memory requires a successive address read for each cell read (see, e.g., column 5, line 52 through column 6, line 25 of Sakurai). In sharp contrast, Applicants' claimed common buffer memory control apparatus includes a single message extracting means for extracting single message cells written in a memory block as a single message data item from the block when a cell at the tail of the single message is received. This single message extracting means is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of Sakurai, Wicklund or Cotton, either alone or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Sakurai, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As dependent claims 2 – 11 depend either directly or indirectly from allowable claim 1, Applicants further submit that claims 2 – 11 are allowable for at least this reason.

## CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner

should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', written over a horizontal line.

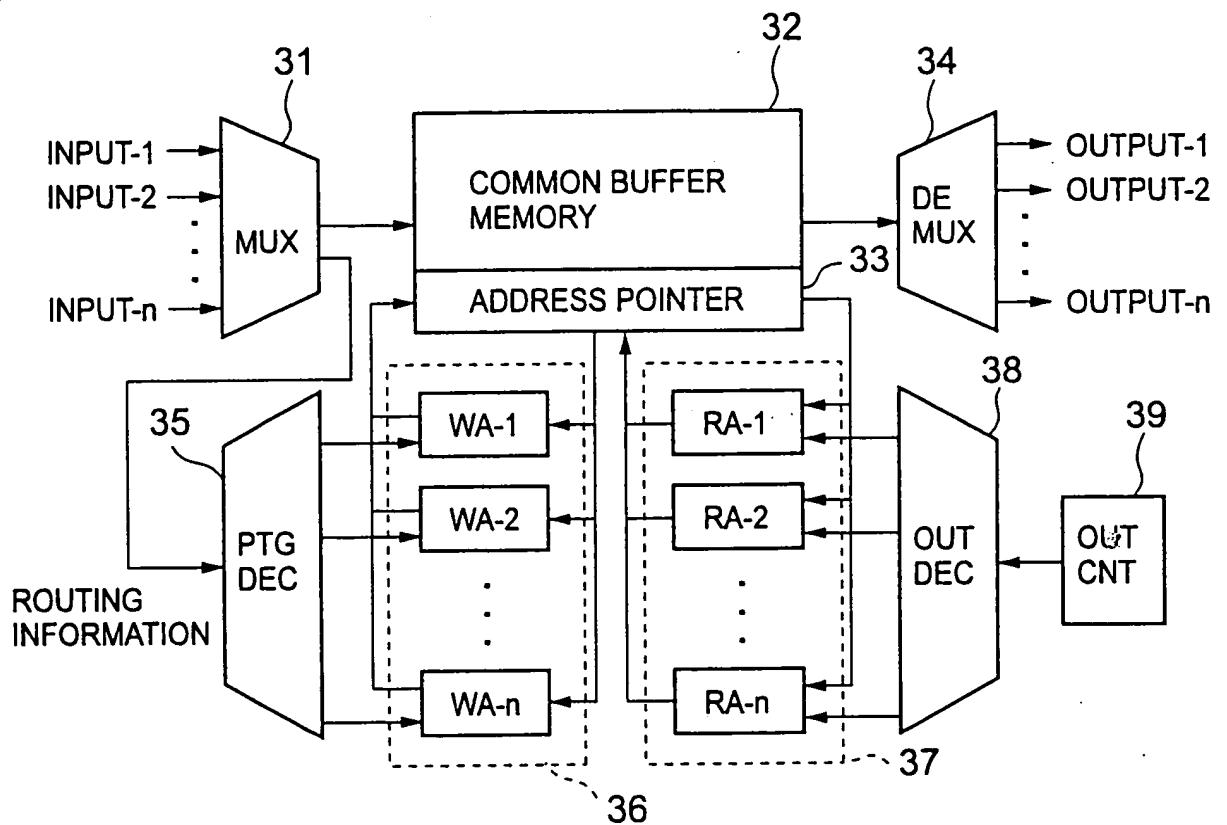
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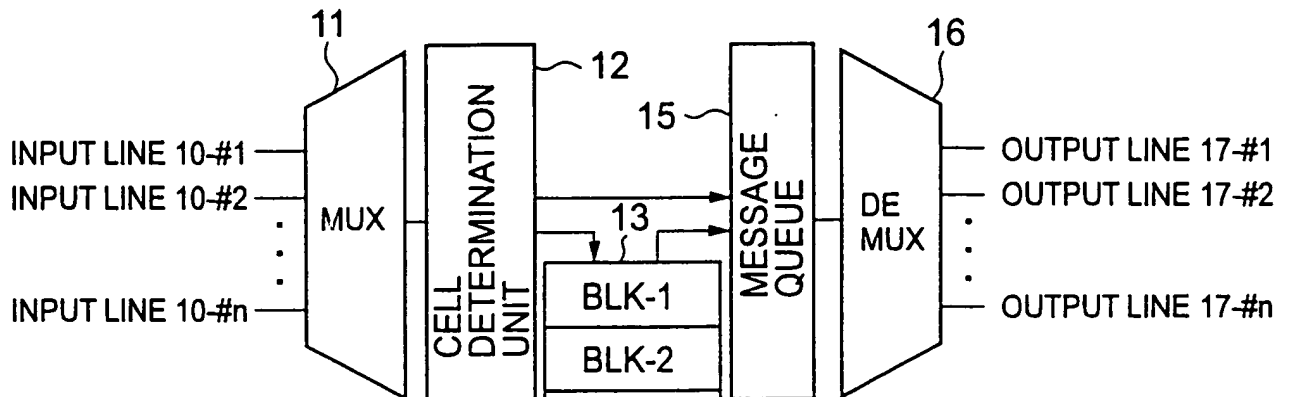
FIG.1  
(PRIOR ART)





Approved  
PN 5.22.03

FIG.2



FREE BLOCK SEARCHING UNIT

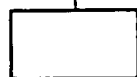
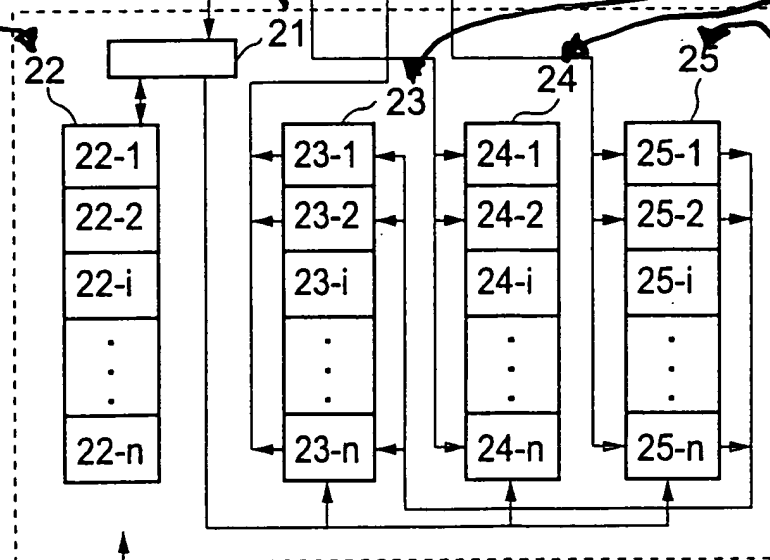
FREE BLOCK MANAGEMENT TABLE

BLOCK MANAGEMENT TABLE

USER MANAGEMENT TABLE

ADDRESS MANAGEMENT TABLE

COMMON BUFFER MEMORY CONTROL



INPUT/OUTPUT DEVICE